

## Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 SEOUL 02111 160816Z

ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-12 IO-14 ISO-00 AGRE-00 CEA-01  
CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 FRB-01 H-02 INR-10 INT-05  
L-03 LAB-04 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 CTME-00 AID-05  
SS-15 STR-07 ITC-01 TRSE-00 USIA-15 SP-02 SOE-02  
OMB-01 DOE-11 /139 W

-----003563 160820Z /13

P R 160651Z MAR 78

FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9866

INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

USMISSION GENEVA

UNCLAS SEOUL 2111

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, GATT, KS

SUBJECT: GATT CONNCIL - UK/EC ACTION ON IMPORTS OF KOREAN TV SETS

REF: GENEVA 4015

THE FOLLOWING ARTICLE APPEARED IN THE INDEPENDENT ENGLISH  
LANGUAGE KOREA TIMES FOR THURSDAY MARCH 16, 1978: KOREA  
PROTESTS AGAINST UK IMPORT CURB ON TV. GENEVA, SWITZERLAND (AP) -  
A SOUTH KOREAN AMBASSADOR THURSDAY PROTESTED THAT BRITAIN'S  
LABOR GOVERNMENT VIOLATED WORLD TRADE RULES BY IMPOSING IMPORT  
RESTRICTIONS ON BLACK AND WHITE TELEVISION SETS. HE SAID  
BRITAIN ACTED UNFAIRLY IN SINGLING OUT SOUTH KOREA TO IMPOSE  
THE RESTRICTIONS, MADE UNDER ARTICLE 19 OF THE GENERAL AGREEMENT  
ON TARIFFS AND TRADE (GATT), WHICH COVERS FOUR-FIFTHS OF WORLD  
TRADE. THE ARTICLE PERMITS A MEMBER COUNTRY TO RESTRICT  
IMPORTS IF ITS DOMESTIC INDUSTRY IS BEING DAMAGE.L THE SOUTH  
KOREAN COMPLAINT, WHICH WAS NOT A FORMAL ONE AND THEREFORE  
CALLED FOR NO IMMEDIATE ACTION FROM GATT, WAS MADE AT TUESDAY'S  
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PAGE 02 SEOUL 02111 160816Z

COUNCIL MEETING BY DELEGATION CHIEF AMB. LHO SHIN-YONG. IT  
WAS SUPPORTED BY JAPAN, HONG KONG, INDIA AND PAKISTAN. NEITHER  
THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY NOR THE NORDIC COUNTRIES EXPRESSED  
AGREEMENT WITH THE KOREAN COMPLAINT, STATING THEY WOULD  
TEMPORARILY RESERVE THEIR VIEWS. THE BRITISH MADE NO STATEMENT.  
THE QUOTAS ON EXPORTS FROM KOREA SET BY BRITAIN FOR 1977 AND  
1978 WERE AT AN ANNUAL RATE OF 37,000 UNITS. IN 1976, SOUTH

KOREA EXPORTED ONLY 2,143 SETS TO BRITAIN, BUT THE COMMON MARKET COUNTRY SAID ITS ASIAN EXPORTER WAS PLANNING TO SHIP AS MANY AS 300,000 SETS IN 1977. ALTHOUGH TUESDAY'S COMPLAINT BY SOUTH KOREA DID NOT REQUIRE ANY OFFICIAL GATT REPLY, THE COUNCIL NEVERTHELESS URGED BOTH DISPUTING COUNTRIES TO RESOLVE THE PROBLEM QUICKLY. HE ASKED FOR A "MUTUAL AGREEMENT" WITH BRITAIN ON THE NUMBER OF SETS TO BE EXPORTED. HE DECLINED TO SAY WHAT A REASONABLE FIGURE WOULD BE. LHO SAID THAT IF NO SUCH AGREEMENT WAS REACHED, HIS GOVERNMENT WOULD CONSIDER TAKING "FURTHER ACTION" AT THE NEXT GATT COUNCIL MEETING. HE DECLINED TO ELABORATE. ASKED WHY HIS COUNTRY HAD NOT FILED A FORMAL COMPLAINT, HE SAID SOUTH KOREA WANTED TO GIVE BRITAIN A CHANCE TO RESCIND THE RESTRICTIONS FIRST. BUT HE WARNED: "IF THIS KIND OF PRACTICE IS NOT CORRECTED, THEN IT WOULD BE DANGEROUS TO EXISTING GATT AGREEMENT."  
SNEIDER

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NNN

## Message Attributes

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**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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